

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

AJITPAL SANGHERA,

Defendant.

CASE NO. CR20-106 RSM

ORDER

THIS COURT having considered the unopposed stipulated motion of the parties for a continuance of the trial date and the facts set forth therein, and General Orders 01-20, 02-20, 03-20, 04-20, 07-20, 08-20, 15-20, and 18-20 of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, addressing measures to reduce the spread and health risks from COVID-19, which are incorporated herein by reference, and the facts set forth in the government's motion, hereby FINDS as follows:

1. In light of the recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Public Health for Seattle and King County regarding the social distancing measures required to stop the spread of this disease, as well as the lack of the type of personal protective equipment necessary to ensure the health and safety of all participants, it is not possible at this time to proceed with a jury trial as scheduled on March 1, 2021.

2. Further, because of the recommendations that individuals at higher risk of contracting this disease—including individuals with underlying health conditions, individuals age 60 and older, and individuals who are pregnant—avoid large groups of people, at this time, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to get a jury pool that would represent a fair cross section of the community. Based on the recommendations it would also be medically inadvisable to do so.

3. As a result, the failure to grant a continuance of the trial date in this case would likely result in a miscarriage of justice. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), the ends of justice served by continuing the trial in this case outweighs the best interest of the public and the defendant to a speedy trial.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the trial date is continued until May 3, 2021 at 9:00 am.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the time from the date of the entry of this order and May 3, 2021 shall be excludable time pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161.

Dated this 19th day of January 2021.



RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Presented by:

s/ William Dreher

WILLIAM DREHER
Assistant United States Attorney